

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 12, 2006. Claims 1, 4-17, 19, and 22-38 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 4, 5, 19, 20, and 21 have been amended hereby. Claims 2, 3, 18, 20, 21, 39-53 have been canceled and the recitations of Claims 2, 3, 20, and 21 have been incorporated into their respective base claims; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. It should be noted that certain elements of Claims 1 and 19, the independent claims, have been rewritten in means-plus-function form or step-plus-function form, respectively. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

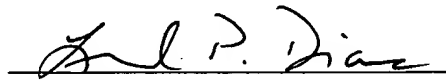
Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 3-6, 13-17, 21-24, 31-35, 37, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected base claim, and with no change in scope. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include all the recitations of Claims 2 and 3, and independent Claim 19 has been amended to include all the recitations of Claims 20 and 21.

Accordingly, all pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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